

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Cape Lookout National Seashore

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: CALO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The Centennial of the National Park Service in 2016 will also mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Cape Lookout National Seashore. In 2009, the park will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the construction of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse, which serves as a bright beacon shining back onto the nation's maritime past and as an icon for people, as they remember the rich cultural heritage of the North Carolina Outer Banks. The Cape Lookout Lighthouse has served mariners both as a warning of great danger, and a symbol of hope due to the safe harbor provided by the cape.

The park's Centennial vision seeks to have this heritage come alive and serve as inspiration for visitors through historic preservation, vivid educational programs, and through meaningful personal experiences. The NPS at Cape Lookout is partnering with the people of North Carolina, with Federal, State and local governments, and with its many partner organizations (coordinated by the Friends of Cape Lookout National Seashore) to restore the National Register historic resources of the Cape Lookout Light Station, to open the lighthouse as a public museum, and to set the stage for restoration of the Cape Lookout and Portsmouth Village Historic Districts. The Friends pledge to coordinate a two million dollar capital campaign to serve as a matching grant towards the four million in funding needed for the light station restoration.

The mission of the Seashore is to conserve and preserve for the future the outstanding natural resources of a dynamic coastal barrier island system; to protect and interpret the significant cultural resources of the past and contemporary maritime history; to provide for public education and enrichment through proactive interpretation and scientific study; and to provide for sustainable use of recreation resources and opportunities.

Cape Lookout National Seashore is nationally recognized as an outstanding example of a dynamic natural coastal barrier island system. Cape Lookout is designated as a unit of the Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Reserve Program. The park contains cultural resources rich in the maritime history of humankind's attempt to survive at the edge of the sea, and provides critical habitat for endangered and threatened species and other unique wildlife including the legislatively protected wild horses of Shackleford Banks.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Charles Cranfield, Acting Superintendent

Site: CALO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue work to improve safety and accessibility through Alternative Transportation Planning, integrating ferry transport and island transport as well as preservation of historic structures and facilities.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CALO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ **Improve the condition of park resources and assets.**

☒ **Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.**

Bring Outer Banks maritime history alive through restoration of the Cape Lookout Light Station (including the Cape Lookout Lighthouse, the coal shed the oil shed, and the historic landscape. Relocate the 1907 Lighthouse Keepers Quarters back to its historic location at the light station. Attract a significant following and increase interest in maritime history by opening the lighthouse to the public.

Rehabilitate the Cape Lookout Village Historic District with 13 contributing structures consistent with the Cape Lookout Historic Village Reuse Plan which was completed in June 2007. The plan would restore and/or adaptively reuse the structures for interpretation, housing and as concession cabins allowing visitors to experience rustic accommodations in the historic setting of the Cape Lookout Life-Saving and US Coast Guard stations.

Begin parkwide GMP planning including the preservation, restoration and interpretation of the 30 historic structures in the Portsmouth Village Historic District.

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☒ **Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.**

Maintain necessary and appropriate visitor use facilities in a top, and sustainable condition. Implement energy and other green strategies to improve efficiency.

Integrate facilities maintenance for all partner organization facilities into NPS maintenance management systems (including the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, and Maritime Museum Cape Lookout Studies Program).

Work with concession contractors to improve the sustainability, condition and efficiency of concessions cabins at Great Island and Long Point Cabin Areas.

Cooperate with the US Coast Guard to replace the underwater electrical line to the Cape Lookout Lighthouse.

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Site: CALO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

Manage seashore recreational use (and in particular ORV use) and carefully monitor and manage natural resources so that Federal and State listed species and other protected species improve with respect to recovery goals (and within the context of natural events and conditions.)

Species of management concern are managed to the desired condition.

Monitor and analyze data on resource status and trends. Identify resource impacts and prioritize threats. Develop and implement actions to mitigate threats. Evaluate program effectiveness and adapt management actions accordingly.

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☒ Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

As a centennial project, restore the Cape Lookout Light Station landscape and complete CLI, CLR and plans for the Cape Lookout Village and Portsmouth Village Historic Districts. Implement priority elements of landscape plans; restore and maintain the park's 2 landscapes to good condition.

Complete outstanding Historic Structures Reports for the Cape Lookout Village Historic District and Portsmouth Village Historic District structures.

Monitor and analyze data on cultural resource status and trends. Identify cultural resource impacts and prioritize threats. Develop and implement actions to mitigate threats. Evaluate program effectiveness and adapt management actions accordingly.

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☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Culturally significant and legislatively protected wild horses on Shackleford are managed in cooperation with the Foundation for Shackleford Horses and others to sustain a healthy, genetically representative population of 110-130 horses.

Foster community participation in resource stewardship through education, proactive NEPA planning and through a successful volunteer program. Actively participate in community affairs and planning for issues that will impact the parks resources.

Site: CALO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CALO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Carteret County and specifically Morehead City is the center of activity for Marine Studies programs from a number of preeminent governmental and university programs such as NOAA, Duke University Marine Lab, NC State, and other programs.

The 56 miles and five islands that comprise Cape Lookout National Seashore are among the most significant of undeveloped barrier island systems in the United States. Together with Cape Hatteras National Seashore (which is more developed) these barrier islands form a laboratory for study of coastal geological systems, and the response of these systems to changes such as global warming.

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Site: CALO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Encourage children to be future conservationists.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Carteret County and specifically Morehead City is the center of activity for Marine Studies programs from a number of preeminent governmental and university programs such as NOAA, Duke University Marine Lab, NC State, and other programs.

Development of curriculum based educational programs for school-age children will further establish the seashore and region as a center for marine science education, promoting the seashore as an outdoor classroom and laboratory.

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Site: CALO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Implement and improve the operation of photovoltaic systems throughout the seashore to reduce reliance on generators- reducing the amount of fuel transported over marine estuaries, and the noise and exhaust impact on the seashore.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Complete conversion of all outboard motors to 4-stroke. Explore alternative vehicles for transport of personnel on seashore islands.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CALO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

☒ Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

Implement and improve the operation of photovoltaic systems throughout the seashore to reduce reliance on generators- reducing the amount of fuel transported over marine estuaries, and the noise and exhaust impact on the seashore. Showcase systems to the public

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Implement and improve the operation of photovoltaic systems throughout the seashore to reduce reliance on generators- reducing the amount of fuel transported over marine estuaries, and the noise and exhaust impact on the seashore.

Showcase systems to the public through effective interpretive programs.

Replace gasoline vehicles with alternative energy or fuel vehicles where possible (Harkers Island- Maintenance and Interpretation; Historic Villages.)

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CALO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Build a tremendous and lasting resource stewardship partnership through the centennial project which will: restore the National Register historic resources of the Cape Lookout Light Station, open the Cape Lookout Lighthouse to the public, and set the stage for restoration of the Cape Village Historic District.

Completion of this project by the centennial and 50th anniversary of the Seashore harkens back to the initial stewardship effort by the people of North Carolina in the 1960's to establish the Seashore finally in 1976. A two million dollar capital campaign coordinated by the Friends of Cape Lookout National Seashore will bring together people and partners from seashore friends groups, the local community, the State of North Carolina and the nation to complete the 4 million dollar project to restore the Light Station.

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Site: CALO

RECREATION

☒ Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level-federal, regional, state, local-to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

☒ Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Fully integrate the Seashore with the North Carolina Mountains to Sea Trail, including formal provisions for inter-island ferry transport along the Seashore islands. Cooperate with all jurisdictions to implement and promote the trail.

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☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue and expand collaboration with Coastal Federation and the Morehead City Parks and Recreation Department for providing interpretation.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CALO

RECREATION

☒ Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.

☒ Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

As a centennial project, restoration of the Cape Lookout Light Station and Cape Lookout Village Historic District will greatly contribute to the Seashore's ability to augment its highly successful volunteer "Lighthouse Keeper" and "Village Caretaker" programs. Volunteer Keepers and Caretakers currently provide over 9 FTE of work time which provides most, if not all, of the visitor services at seashore islands visitor centers. Additional "eco-tourism" volunteers would contribute to the interpretation of the light station, the Cape Village and Portsmouth Village historic districts.

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Site: CALO

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

The centennial project to restore the Cape Lookout Light Station Complex and open the Cape Lookout Lighthouse to the public would significantly increase the number of visitors to the area. The Cape Lookout lighthouse is one of the most significant tourism draws to the region. Interest in climbing the lighthouse is extreme. Opening the lighthouse to the public would make the Cape Lookout Lighthouse and Light Station a major cultural destination in addition to the significant recreational destination that it is today.

The centennial project would help implement the Cape Lookout Historic Village Reuse Plan. Restoration of 8 of the 13 contributing structures and adaptively reusing others for concession overnight cabins would provide alternatives to beach camping at the district and would allow visitors an opportunity to experience life at the Cape (as other recreationalists did during the 1940-50 period of significance of the district.)

Implement the Commercial Services Plan and in particular the provision for ferry services from the Harker's Island Visitor Center to the Seashore and concessions contracts for Cape Lookout Village.

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☒ Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

The centennial project to restore the Cape Lookout Light Station Complex and open the lighthouse to the public would significantly increase visitation. The Cape Lookout lighthouse is one of the most significant tourism draws to the region. Interest in climbing the lighthouse is extreme. Opening the lighthouse to the public would make it a major cultural destination and would significantly improve opportunities to interpret the rich maritime history of the North Carolina Outer Banks.

The centennial project would help implement the Cape Lookout Historic Village Reuse Plan. Restoration of 8 of the 13 contributing structures and adaptively reusing others for concession overnight cabins would provide alternatives to beach camping at the district and would allow visitors an opportunity to experience life at the Cape as others did in during the 1940-50 period of significance of the district.

Implementing the Commercial Services Plan and in particular the provision for ferry services from the Harker's Island Visitor Center to the Seashore and concessions contracts for Cape Lookout Village would further increase visitation and interpretation.

Site: CALO

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue partnership with the Friends of Cape Lookout NS and a variety state and local tourism and economic development agencies to develop a capital campaign for the restoration of the Cape Lookout Lightstation Complex, and for development of a tourism to both Portsmouth and Cape Lookout Village.

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Site: CALO

EDUCATION

☒ Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

☒ Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

The Cape Lookout Lighthouse is a compelling structure that sparks the imagination and attracts the interest of many people. The centennial project to restore the Cape Lookout Light Station, open the lighthouse to the public and begin restoration of the Cape Village Historic District will greatly enhance the experience of those who plan a visit to the Seashore.

Through vivid interpretation, costumed interpreters, exhibits and the experience of climbing to the top of the lighthouse visitor will achieve a greater understanding and appreciation of Cape Lookout National Seashore.

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Site: CALO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

☒ Establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership.

Develop a business plan for Cape Lookout National Seashore.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CALO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

☒ Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

The staff of Cape Lookout National Seashore will work to keep employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries at or lower than the current 2007 rate.

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